

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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KUZMAN-SPONSORED BILL ON ADOPTION PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS PASSED BY HOUSE

INDIANAPOLIS -- Senate Bill 422, legislation co-sponsored by State Rep. Bob Kuzman (D-Crown Point) that will create requirements for adoption procedures, passed out of the House today by a vote of 95 - 1.

"This legislation will improve the adoption process in Indiana and make it more secure for the adoptive parents," said Kuzman.

The bill will establish requirements for pre-birth waivers of paternity and waivers of notice for adoption. It specifies that waivers are irrevocable.

Fathers will be required to consent to the adoption before the child is born. The consent must be in written form, notarized and contain an advisement that the waiver is irrevocable. A mother is prohibited from executing a pre-birth consent to an adoption without the father's consent. However, in instances where the father cannot be located, the adoption process will still continue.

Child support payments in arrears are not cancelled when a child is adopted.

The bill makes further technical changes to adoption procedures as well.

"Adoption is a very complicated process and the state must establish clear-cut guidelines by which the adoption process is carried out," said Kuzman. "This is a very emotional issue and we need to do what we can to minimize uncertainties and carry things out in the best interests of the people involved."

Senate Bill 422 now goes to conference committee for concurrence on changes made in the House.